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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The American Historical Review for January is an unusually interesting number. The opening article is from the pen of Professor George B. Adams and is entitled *The Origin of the English Constitution*. Professor Adams seeks to answer the question, Why England came out of the Middle Ages a limited monarchy. By this phrase he means the notion of a body of law above the king which he may be compelled to obey. In his opinion the body of Magna Carta and clause 61 is the first inclination of the Constitution towards a limited monarchy. In the fourteenth century Parliament,—whose development had been going on apart from the experiment in methods of coercing the king—became the embodiment of this fundamental principle of the Constitution.

Louise R. Loomis writes upon *The Greek Renaissance in Italy*, and attempts to show that "the part played by Greek literature in fifteenth century Italy was less triumphant than it is ordinarily supposed to have been." Facts are mentioned to show that the enthusiasm, in so far as it was influential and genuine, was for Roman antiquity rather than for Hellenic. Even in philosophy the influence, from antiquity which helped to shape the thought of the fifteenth century were derived more directly from the Empire than from Hellas.

Professor A. B. Hart contributes an article on *John Knox as a Man of the World* in his usual direct style. He discusses John Knox from several standpoints, emphasizing his pride as a man, his vehemence as a writer, his violence as a preacher, his intemperate zeal as a reformer, and his practical failure as a constructive statesman,—all in all, a vivid glimpse of Scotland's great reformer.

In *The First Hayburn Case*, the writer, Professor Max Farrand, adduces evidence to show that on April 11, 1792, James Wilson, John Blair, and Richard Peter declared the Invalid Pension Act of 1792 unconstitutional, though there is no official record of the case. This is therefore the first instance of the Supreme Court asserting its right to declare an act of Congress invalid because contrary to the Federal Constitution.

The American Acta Sanctorum is the annual address of the

president of the American Historical Association, Professor J. Franklin Jameson, delivered at Madison, December 27, 1907. The writer makes a plea for the recognition of the claim of American religious history by those who would completely understand the American character and spirit.

The *Review* prints two documents: one, *Joseph Gales on the War Manifesto of 1812*; and the other, *Robert Barnwell Rhett on the Biography of Calhoun, 1854*, contributed by Gaillard Hunt.

Eighty pages of this number of the *Review* are devoted to review of books. It also contains a communication from George W. Graham: *The Mecklenburg Declaration: What Did the Governor See?* and Notes and News.

J. E. WINSTON.

Texans Who Wore the Gray. By Sid S. Johnson, Captain 3d Texas Cavalry, Ross Brigade, C. S. A., and Brigadier General, Texas Brigade, Forrest's Cavalry, U. C. V. 8vo., pp. 407.

This is a collection of short biographies of more than four hundred Texas soldiers, officers for the greater part, in the Civil War, interspersed here and there with anecdotes of the camp and field. While it leaves something to be desired in selection and proportion, the material is to the point and will prove of value to the student of that period of Texas history. The book would be more serviceable if the matter were arranged in some regular order, either by suitable grouping or alphabetically, but this defect is remedied somewhat by a good index.

C. W. R.

THE QUARTERLY welcomes the appearance of a new historical magazine, particularly as it is published in Mexico, where there has hitherto been no journal devoted exclusively to history. Reference is made to the *Revista Histórica Mexicana*, the first number of which was issued last October. It is to be a monthly publication, and is edited by Mr. C. D. López, for some time librarian in the Museo Nacional at the Mexican Capital. Dr. José M. Vigil, notable among the older Mexican scholars, is honorary editor. A good omen for the success of the publication is the fact that in the first two numbers there have appeared articles by several of the leading Mexican students of history and antiquities, the list including Carlos Pereyra, Professor of History in the Escuela

Preparatoria, at the Capital, and author of several publications relating to Mexican history; Dr. Edward Seler, a prominent authority on Mexican archæology; Luis González Obregón, author of "México Viejo," and numerous historical papers; and Dr. Antonio Peñafiel, Director of the Federal Census and one of the most prolific writers on Mexican antiquities. Professor Pereyra writes of "The Text-Book in History Classes"; Dr. Seler of "The Identity of Omacatl and Tezcatlipoca"; Señor González Obregón of "Castes in New Spain in the Eighteenth Century," and Dr. Peñafiel of "The Precortesian Mixtec Code Javier Córdova and an Ancient Plan of San Andrés, Cholula."

In addition to original articles, the *Revista* publishes translations of noteworthy articles on Mexican history formerly printed in other languages. This department could be made highly valuable to Mexican readers, by acquainting them with foreign writers and methods.

The publication in Mexico of a well edited historical journal is highly desirable, as a means of stimulating the writing of critical monograph studies of Mexican history, for, with few exceptions, Mexican history has not yet passed through this necessary monograph stage. It is greatly to be hoped, therefore, that the *Revista* will succeed.

AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Association will be held on March 2, 1908, at the University of Texas, in room 44, at 3:30 p. m. President Houston will have something to say concerning the work of the Association. A paper will be read by Mr. C. W. Ramsdell on the Convention of 1866, and one by Mrs. Mattie Austin Hatcher on an educational scheme of Stephen F. Austin's. The latter will include some interesting documents which have been found in the Austin collection. The reading of the papers will be followed by the usual business session for the election of officers, etc. There will be no further announcement than is contained in this notice or will appear in the daily papers as the meeting approaches. All who are interested in the work of the Association, and especially the members, are cordially invited to attend.